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GSS SENSITIVE - EA
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S 7/11

March 26, 1975

CONFIDENTIAL

To: The Secretary

From: EA - Philip C. Habib

PRC Performing Arts Troupe

In accordance with the agreed scenario, the National Committee for US-China Relations informed the PRC Liaison Office late this afternoon that since the problem involving the song had not been resolved, the National Committee with regret has decided that the tour of the Performing Arts Troupe would have to be postponed indefinitely. The National Committee added that it would be shortly releasing a statement to the press.

Within half an hour, the PRC Liaison Office telephoned the attached response to the National Committee (despite the fact that when the National Committee telephoned the Liaison Office, the Liaison Office said that all the principals were out, thus making it necessary for the National Committee to leave the message with the person who answered the phone). The wording of the response is almost identical to the statement which the PRC Liaison Office gave us in one of the meetings. We suspect that if we instead of the National Committee had telephoned the Liaison Office, we would have been given the same statement.

We are somewhat encouraged by the fact that there is no threat of retaliation in the statement.

We have no plans to contact the Liaison Office on this matter but will not be surprised if they ask to come in to give a similar statement to us.

Attachment:

PRCLO Response

CONFIDENTIAL

Drafted: EA/PRCM:OVArmstrong:mfr X26300

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PRC Liaison Office's Response to
National Committee on US-China Relations
March 26, 1975

We regret very much that the National Committee on US-China Relations has decided to postpone indefinitely the tour of the US by the Chinese Performing Arts Troupe. That song entitled "The People of Taiwan, Our Own Brothers" expresses the profound sentiment of the Chinese people for the unification of our motherland. The request to remove the song is unwarranted. The liberation of Taiwan and the unification of our motherland is the Chinese people's internal affair in which no other country has a right to interfere. To us this is a matter of principle. The US side's request is incompatible with this principle and the Chinese side cannot accept it. In the Shanghai Communique the US side agreed that there is but one China and that Taiwan is a part of China. If the US side is not retreating from the Shanghai Communique there is no reason for it to object to the inclusion of this song in the supplementary program of the Chinese Performing Arts Troupe. As the US side clings to its unreasonable position, the Chinese side has no other alternative than agree to an indefinite postponement of the tour of the United States by the Performing Arts Troupe of China.